

**Land Sliding in Konkan Railway**

**\*195. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway is facing a regular problem of land slidings;

(b) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take; and

(c) whether the Ministry would consider to take benefit of the experience of Border Road Development Corporation about land sliding in border areas?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Konkan Railway had appointed an Expert Committee to inspect and suggest remedial measures. Committee submitted its report in April, 2000. Implementation of the recommendations is in progress.

(c) Yes, Sir.

**Number of species/sub-species of plants and wild animals**

**†\*196. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:**

**PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:**

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of species and sub-species of plants and wild animals in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that smuggling of the limbs of wild animals comes next to smuggling of narcotics and killing and smuggling of limbs of wild animals continues unabated despite ban under extant laws;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to draft stringent laws for protection of wild animals and plants becoming extinct and to check their smuggling;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if not, in what manner the protection of wild animals and plants would be ensured?

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):** (a) to (e) India has nearly 46000 species of plants and about 81000 species of known fauna. The poaching and illegal trade of the parts and products both from wild plants and animals are one of the major causes of threat to wildlife. State Governments and various Departments of Central Government are making efforts to control the poaching and illegal trade of parts and products of wild animals. The list of important seizures made since 1996 is annexed. [See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 19] The list includes two seizures of legs viz. that of Jackal and the birds of prey.

The mandatory provisions regarding punishment for hunting of wild animals and illegal trade in wild animals and plants are quite stringent. In case of hunting of endangered species, the term of imprisonment may extend up to six years. The persons indulging in illegal trade of wild animals are punishable for imprisonment which may extend to seven years. There is no upper limit on the fine that the Courts can impose in this regard. There are proposals to make the penalties more stringent.

The punishment in respect of offences related to endangered species of plants may extend to three years imprisonment and fine up to Rs. 25,000/-.

#### **Modernisation of Train Bogies in South India**

**\*197. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:**

**DR. RAJA RAMANNA:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many trains in South India connecting important cities like Bangalore and Raichur are still using old, improperly maintained bogies for all classes, which are both dangerous and dirty;

(b) whether Government propose to remove such bogies;

(c) if so, what would be the financial commitment; and

(d) how long will it take to implement a modernisation plan, similar to trains in the North?